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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: OMACHI

SERIAL NO.: 09/855,971

FILED: May 15, 2001

FOR: COMMERCIAL MESSAGE TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING...

DOCKET: NEC N01268

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicant hereby attach
U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including a copy of the prior art reference listed therein.
The reference is discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are
believed to be patentably distinguished over this reference.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of
disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made
that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art,
inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please
charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315

HAYES, SOLOWAY,
HENNESSEY, GROSSMAN
& HAGE, P.C.
175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH
03101-2335 U.S.A.
603-668-1400



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 15, 2001 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Kristina Stevens

HAYES, SOLOWAY,
HENNESSEY, GROSSMAN
& HAGE, P.C.
175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH
03101-2335 U.S.A.

603-668-1400

~~(Use several sheets if necessary)~~

NEC N012

09/855,971

OMACHI

MAY 15, 2001

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DATE CONSIDERED

Form PTO-A820
(also form PTO-1449)

P09C/REV03

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